

HB 808EXHIBIT 15
DATE 3-5-07
HB 808

To: House Speaker Scott Sales, Appropriations Chairman John Sinrud, Rep. Edith Clark,
Rep. Ray Hawk, Rep. Eve Franklin and other House members

My name is Mark Sanders and I've spoken with you before this session on the vital need to fund the Resource Facilitation Service provided by the Brain Injury Association of Montana. As you know, this service was started with the help of federal grants, which have ended.

I am a brain injury survivor and I am on the Montana Brain Injury Association Board of Directors. We are determined to keep RFS going until it becomes state-funded. But if the funding doesn't come through, we will not have the resources to maintain it.

The high rate of brain injuries is staggering; spinal cord injury and breast cancer combined do not equal the number of brain injuries. Now thousands of soldiers are returning from Iraq and Afghanistan with brain injuries. Without the Resource Facilitation Service, which guides new brain-injured survivors to where they can go for services, where should we send the new brain injury survivors who are returning home with undiagnosed brain injuries?

RFS helps people with brain injuries figure out what to do and where to go. It helps people help themselves and makes them feel less alone.

The RFS is a resource for everyone in Montana, including legislators. You will want to be able to give the RFS number to the people who voted for you, when they ask you for help. Here is that number: 800-241-6442, or 541-6442 in Missoula. Please help us keep this resource going.

Thank you for your time.

Mark Sanders
3000 Villard, #25
Helena, Montana 59624